

Children's Cabinet
Work Group on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness

Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

2:00 – 4:00 PM

*Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room
Richmond, Virginia*

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Cornelia Deagle, Shikee Franklin, Kathy Glazer, George Cunningham, Catherine Hancock, Hughes Melton, Ben Kiser, Duke Storen, Barbara Newlin, Rosa Atkins, Emily Griffey, Sakina Jackson, Rebecca Vinroot, Lisa Howard, Tiffany Gordon

Members Absent: Michael Martin, Kim Hulcher, Andrew Daire, James Lane

I. Welcome

Chief School Readiness Officer Jenna Conway welcomed the attendees of the meeting and provided an outline of what would be covered at the meeting. She introduced Amanda Williford, Jessica Whittaker, and Anita McGinty from the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, who were attending the meeting to present on and discuss VKRP and PALS.

II. Update on Children's Cabinet Meeting

Ms. Conway provided an update on what the Children's Cabinet discussed at their previous meeting. She highlighted the Children's Cabinet discussion of the data systems in the Commonwealth and the need for improved incorporation of early childhood data in data sharing across the state. She mentioned the benefits of having an early childhood data system for research and understanding the effectiveness of the system.

III. Presentation and Discussion

Amanda Williford presented on the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP). She provided the history and background of the program and discussed the ways in which VKRP measures kindergarten readiness as a part of a larger thinking about school readiness. She noted the areas that VKRP assess and explained that it does not assess all skills, but balances what is practical and feasible by measuring literacy, social skills,

mathematics, and self-regulation. Ms. Williford highlighted the importance of context in understanding and measuring these skills, and explained that social emotional skills are developed and shown in a context.

Ms. Williford discussed the data that has been learned from VKRP as well as how statewide readiness data can be used throughout the Commonwealth. The effective use of this data can lead to improved decision-making regarding how to best allocate resources and monitor progress as well as how to teach students and effectively employ early interventions when necessary. She then went into more depth regarding how the VKRP assessments are structured for each measured skill (literacy, mathematics, social emotional skills, and self-regulation). She explained how the measurements are designed and conducted to provide a level of precision for assessments.

Ms. Williford explained VKRP expansion over time in terms of the number of classrooms and students involved in VKRP and some of the findings from the data.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned following a reminder about a Children's Cabinet meeting to be scheduled in mid-December.